

BUSINESS LAW AND ETHICS

Business Law and Ethics provides an overview of the legal system in the business setting. Topics covered include: basics of the judicial system, contract, personal, employment and property law. Application of legal principles and ethical decision-making techniques are presented through problem-solving methods and situation analyses.

- DOE Code: 4560
- Recommended Grade Level: Grade 11-12
- Recommended Prerequisites: None
- Credits: 1 credit per semester, maximum of 2 credits
- Counts as a Directed Elective or Elective for the General, Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors diplomas
- This course is aligned with postsecondary courses for Dual Credit:
 - Ivy Tech
 - BUSN 102 – Business Law

Dual Credit

This course provides the opportunity for dual credit for students who meet postsecondary requirements for earning dual credit and successfully complete the dual credit requirements of this course.

Application of Content

Intensive laboratory applications are a component of this course and may be either school based or work based or a combination of the two. Work-based learning experiences should be in a closely related industry setting. Instructors shall have a standards-based training plan for students participating in work-based learning experiences.

Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

Career and Technical Student Organizations are considered a powerful instructional tool when integrated into Career and Technical Education programs. They enhance the knowledge and skills students learn in a course by allowing a student to participate in a unique program of career and leadership development. Students should be encouraged to participate in Business Professional of America, DECA, or Future Business Leaders of America, the CTSOs for this area.

Content Standards

Domain – Law and Judicial Systems

Core Standard 1 Students evaluate ethics and the laws of the United States and Indiana so as to make ethical and legal decisions.

Standards

- BLE-1.1 Identify consequences of unethical and illegal conduct
- BLE-1.2 Explain a person's responsibility under the law
- BLE-1.3 Compare the relationship between law and ethics
- BLE-1.4 Debate and solve difficult ethical and legal problems
- BLE-1.5 Demonstrate the way social forces may sometimes conflict
- BLE-1.6 Identify the most common sources of the law

- BLE-1.7 Interpret the basic freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights
- BLE-1.8 Describe several key Constitutional amendments beyond the Bill of Rights
- BLE-1.9 Classify the powers and limitations of the federal government as stated in the Constitution
- BLE-1.10 Apply specific statutes, ordinances, and administrative regulations
- BLE-1.11 Discuss the rights to privacy including internet and e-mail access and Internet and e-mail usage

Core Standard 2 Students examine the basic structure of the federal, state, and local court systems to understand the legal process.

Standards

- BLE-2.1 Compare and contrast the basic structure of the federal, state, and local court system
- BLE-2.2 Differentiate among cases that belong within the jurisdiction of the federal, state, and local court systems
- BLE-2.3 Compare the role of the juvenile court with the role of other courts within a state
- BLE-2.4 Distinguish among the roles of the legal professionals, such as judges, lawyers, and paralegals

Core Standard 3 Students assess procedural and substantive laws to determine the proper course of action.

- BLE-3.1 Explain the advantages and disadvantages of litigation and alternate dispute resolution (ADR)
- BLE-3.2 Illustrate the differences between procedural and substantive law
- BLE-3.3 Distinguish between civil and criminal law
- BLE-3.4 Compare and contrast the steps in a civil law suit with the steps in a criminal prosecution
- BLE-3.5 Evaluate the consequences of violating criminal law and remedies available in civil law
- BLE-3.6 Differentiate among categories of crime
- BLE-3.7 Determine several defenses to civil and criminal acts including computer crimes
- BLE-3.8 Evaluate and give examples of negligence, intentional torts, and product liability
- BLE-3.9 Explain the concept of strict liability and the circumstances under which it is imposed
- BLE-3.10 Outline the various types of federal and state statutes designed to combat computer crime

Domain – Contract Law

Core Standard 4 Students demonstrate knowledge of the concepts and principles fundamental to contract law in order to enter legal agreements.

Standards

- BLE-4.1 Demonstrate the elements required to create a contract
- BLE-4.2 Differentiate among classes of contracts, such as bilateral and unilateral; express and implied; and oral and written
- BLE-4.3 Summarize the essential information that should be included under the statute of frauds
- BLE-4.4 Discover the ways a contract can be discharged

Core Standard 5 Students evaluate the concepts and principles fundamental to sales agreements to be better consumers.

Standards

- BLE-5.1 Distinguish between a sale of goods and other transactions relating to goods
- BLE-5.2 Explain when title and risk of loss in a sale of goods
- BLE-5.3 Discuss the remedies when the sales contract is breached
- BLE-5.4 Determine when computer-related contracts are service contracts and when they are sale of goods contracts

Core Standard 6 Students analyze the role and importance of agency law as it relates to the conduct of business to act as a third party to a contract.

Standards

- BLE-6.1 Distinguish the roles and duties of agents, individuals and principals
- BLE-6.2 Identify the different types of power of attorney
- BLE-6.3 Describe when and how an agent or principal can become liable to a third party in a contract
- BLE-6.4 Summarize the methods by which an agency can be terminated

Domain – Personal Law

Core Standard 7 Students analyze the functions/uses of commercial paper to understand the use of promissory notes.

Standards

- BLE-7.1 Explain the importance and function of commercial paper
- BLE-7.2 Identify the essential elements of a negotiable instrument and different types of endorsement
- BLE-7.3 Explain the contractual relationship between the bank and its customers
- BLE-7.4 Outline the Check 21 Act and its effect on banking and electronic signature

Core Standard 8 Students integrate the legal aspects of credit and bankruptcy law in order to be credit worthy citizens.

Standards

- BLE-8.1 Explain the nature of a letter of credit and the liabilities of the various parties to a letter of credit
- BLE-8.2 Compare secured credit sales of consumer goods and secured credit sales of inventory
- BLE-8.3 Explain how a lien is created released, and discuss lien priority
- BLE-8.4 Explain the rights of the parties upon the debtor's default
- BLE-8.5 Compare and contrast a contract of suretyship and a contract of guaranty
- BLE-8.6 List the requirements for becoming a holder in due course and explain the rights of a holder in due course
- BLE-8.7 List and explain the universal defenses available against all holders
- BLE-8.8 Describe and discuss the various types of bankruptcy and alternatives
- BLE-8.9 Identify debts which are not extinguished by bankruptcy
- BLE-8.10 Explain the future effects of bankruptcy

Core Standard 9 Students synthesize the concepts and functions needed to make insurance buying decisions.

- BLE-9.1 Compare and contrast different types of insurance
- BLE-9.2 Differentiate between requirements for an insurable interest for property with those needed for life insurance
- BLE-9.3 Discuss the impact of laws on insurance

Core Standard 10 Students evaluate the concepts, functions, and processes of domestic relations and estate planning to prepare for adulthood.

Standards

- BLE-10.1 Define marriage and explain the requirements, rights and obligations
- BLE-10.2 Identify the issues and concerns that might be included in a prenuptial agreement
- BLE-10.3 Identify the states that recognize common law marriages
- BLE-10.4 Describe the law as it relates to the distribution of property in a divorce
- BLE-10.5 Outline the law of domestic relations as it relates to child custody, visitation and support
- BLE-10.6 Explain laws governing emancipation
- BLE-10.7 Identify the requirements necessary for a valid will
- BLE-10.8 Explain the rights and duties of beneficiaries
- BLE-10.9 Summarize the responsibilities of an executor or administrator in the settlement of an estate
- BLE-10.10 Categorize the key characteristics of medical directives including living wills and other powers of attorney

Domain – Employment

Core Standard 11 Students analyze the role and importance of employment law in to understand their rights and responsibilities as an employee.

Standards

- BLE-11.1 Classify what questions can and cannot be asked during an employment interview or on an application
- BLE-11.2 Explain the doctrine of employment-at-will
- BLE-11.3 Describe the wrongful discharge exceptions
- BLE-11.4 Identify cause and effect of legislation that regulates union activities, such as the National Labor Relations Act, the Taft-Hartley Act, the Landrum-Griffin Act and collective bargaining
- BLE-11.5 Identify legislation that regulates employee rights and employment working conditions
- BLE-11.6 Summarize legislation which guarantees work benefits

Domain – Property

Core Standard 12 Students synthesize the legal rules that apply to personal property in order to understand ownership.

Standards

- BLE-12.1 Distinguish between real property, personal property, and fixtures
- BLE-12.2 Classify different methods by which property is acquired
- BLE-12.3 Recognize intellectual property and how it relates to computer law

Core Standard 13 Students connect the legal rules that apply to real property.

Standards

- BLE-13.1 Distinguish between a lease and a deed
- BLE-13.2 Compare and contrast between liens, licenses, and easements
- BLE-13.3 Describe the forms of real property
- BLE-13.4 Illustrate the method of transferring title to real property
- BLE-13.5 Identify federal, state, and local statutes that affect the landlord-tenant relationship
- BLE-13.6 Explain the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants on the termination of a lease
- BLE-13.7 Describe methods of transferring real property other than by sale

Domain – Legal Business Organization

Core Standard 14 Students evaluate the various forms of business ownership as they relate to the law to know the advantages and disadvantages when choosing a form of business.

Standards

- BLE-14.1 Evaluate the parameters and legal consequences of the various business structures
- BLE-14.2 Compare and contrast a Sole Proprietorship, Limited Liability Company (LLC) and a Partnership
- BLE-14.3 Examine the process of creating a Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Domain – UCC Applications

Core Standard 15 Students will appraise the prevalence of commercial transactions that extend beyond one state in order to apply the Uniform Commercial Code to sales contracts.

Standards

- BLE-15.1 Differentiate between common law and Uniform Commercial Code situations
- BLE-15.2 Explain why the UCC has been adopted by the states
- BLE-15.3 Identify a common carrier's liability for loss or damage to goods

Domain – Application on Legal Principles

Core Standard 16 Students evaluate specific cases by stating the facts, finding the legal question, applying the law, and resolving the issue to demonstrate synthesis of Business Law and Ethics